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The Apostles' Creed in the Twentieth Century.

By Ferdinand S. Schenck. New York: Revell, 1918. Pp. 212. \$1.25.

The writer is professor of Preaching and Sociology in the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick, N.J. The title of his book is interesting. We want to know how the Apostles' Creed is to be interpreted and used religiously in the twentieth century. Dr. Schenck writes an initial chapter on belief and the right use of a creed. It is clear and stimulating; religious faith is the power to believe directed to religious objects; belief is essentially trust in a Person. We turn instantly to the chapters devoted to the Virgin Birth, the Descent into Hades, and the Resurrection of the Body. These are the points at which the twentieth century raises its insistent questions. In his chapter on the Virgin Birth the author does nothing more than extol the doctrine of incarnation without touching the claim of parthenogenesis. But it is precisely here that the twentieth-century man is raising his question. This is typical of the writer's method throughout the book. The author's style is illustrated by this quotation:

"We cannot find a flaw in His life as compared with the law of man's being as given by God. More we are confirmed in this in that His closest, best friends who knew Him most intimately found no sin in Him."

The World Within. By Rufus M. Jones. New York: Macmillan, 1918. Pp. x+172. \$1.25.

A small book, but one of far greater value than its size would indicate. Professor Jones never writes without insight and suggestion. This is a fine companion volume to his *The Inner Life*, which was one of the timely volumes of the war period. As usual, Professor Jones dwells on the inner and mystical aspect of Christianity; but it is never mere theorizing concerning the esoteric and metaphysical. The practical character of the discussion can best be seen by this typical quotation:

"Little by little one discovers, as he lives and sees deeper into the meaning of things, that a life of duty is a life of largeness and freedom. There would be no richness, no content, to a life that answered no calls of duty, a life that remained shut up in its own self. The only way to fulfill one's life is to forget about it and become absorbed in something beyond it, to take up a task which thrusts itself in the way, and to do it. After each such deed the doer discovers that, without aiming for this result, he himself has been enlarged and enriched by it. He has been more than conqueror. He is now himself plus the deed he has done. In doing his duty he has found himself. In the path of duty and in the way of obligation lies the road to the true realiza-

tion of life and of its meaning, and in this vision love casts out fear, and joy supplants dread."

With this firm step Professor Jones moves through the eight chapters in which he discusses the outstanding experiences of the religious life. The last two chapters are especially concerned with the teaching of Jesus concerning the Kingdom of God and the inner life. Taken together this is one of the most satisfactory manuals of devotion and guides to the higher spiritual life that we know.

The Course of Christian History. By W. J. McGlothlin. New York: Macmillan, 1918. Pp. 323. \$2.00.

In three hundred and twenty-three pages Professor McGlothlin has followed the course of Christian history from the beginning to the present. His long experience as a student and teacher of church history, controlled by good generalizing power, has enabled him to select out of the vast and complicated mass of details the central and dominating facts and arrange them in a lively and interesting story.

Fifty-eight pages of questions and suggestions for further study follow. These by reference to a select bibliography which is added will enable the reader to focalize and elaborate the text.

Historians are becoming dissatisfied with the old division of history into ancient, mediaeval, and modern. Various new divisions have been suggested. Professor McGlothlin has followed a new plan. The entire subject is divided into nine periods, the last of which is from 1789 to 1917. We believe that the new arrangement will be acceptable.

The Vital Issues of the War. By Richard Wilson Boynton. Boston: Beacon Press, 1918. Pp. 134. \$1.00.

The author of these discourses is pastor of the First Unitarian Church in Buffalo, New York. The eight sermons which compose the volume were preached during the height of the war. They are in the best sense of the word "occasional" discourses. They probably represent the highest convictions of the great majority of the American people at the time they were delivered. On the whole the preacher is fair and clear and fervid. He has read widely, thought carefully, and speaks with deep conviction. This volume of sermons will probably stand as a fine representative of the best war-time preaching in American pulpits. The publishers of the book have used a good quality of paper and clear type, producing a volume light and easy to handle, not over one-third the thickness of the ordinary volume with the same number of pages. It is a relief to handle such a light, flexible book.